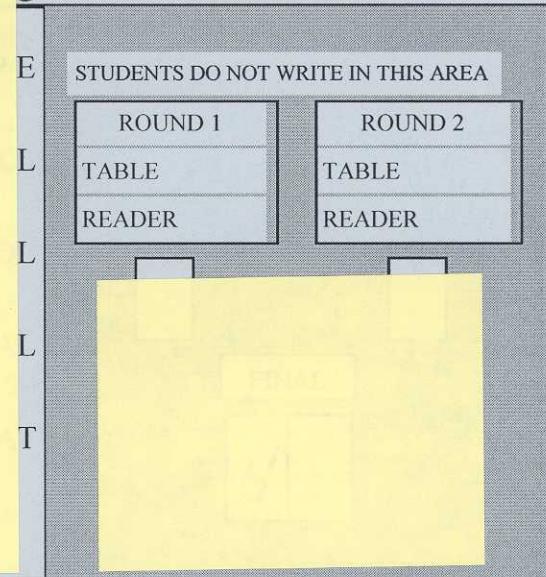


Idaho 9th Grade Direct Writing Assessment

P.S. 1

945



"Boo! I scared you!" This is a common phrase around Halloween time. Many little children get into this holiday, and play a large role in it. When I was younger, it was a holiday that I looked forward too. Now, as I'm older my opinion has differed.

As a child I loved this time of year. Still, I can picture what it looked like in my mind. I could always smell the crisp, biting, October air, and knew it was that season again. The traditional colors; orange, yellow and red were all around me. Bare, grey, trees stood against our house naked and gnarly. They reminded me of my old grandmothers hands, with her long, thin, boney, fingers. The cool breeze swept the leaves off of the ground and "transplanted" them elsewhere. Our yard was speckled with colors of orange, red, and yellow, leaves that were dry and crisp, crunching when we trampled over them.

Not only did I love what nature looked like, but I enjoyed the festivities and decorations. Our school put on the most superb Halloween Carnival ever! It was huge and was held in our school's gym. I thought it was just like the movies. Tickets! Candy! Booths! Games! This incident really brought out the fun part of Halloween. Also, my mother had decorations in a large brown box in our basement. Every year at the first of

October we retrieved the box marked HALLOWEEN and decorated our house for the occasion. I just really got into the spirit of the holiday.

Another one of my favorite things to accomplish was pumpkin carving. We always went to our local grocery store and were able to choose our pumpkin. I chose the orangeest, roundest, most perfect pumpkin of the patch. Then we took it home and took care of it. My favorite part was scrapping scrapping out the insides! It was slimy, stringy and goey! The orange pulp oozed through my fingers like some swamp seaweed goop! Next, we carefully picked out all of the seeds to cook & bake. After we carved them we set them out on the porch for all to see. All of these things were what made Halloween exciting for me as a young girl.

Now my perspective has changed a little on this topic. Some things will never change, but some will as we grow older. I still notice the surroundings every year in October. I love the feeling that is in the air and the look that nature portrays. But now that I'm not in elementary or middle school, we don't have those same festivities. I miss all of the little parties and activities that we used to do. As for decorating goes, my impressions have pretty much remained the same. I still love to get that box out and place decorations around our house. But the problem is, I am so busy, that I don't have time to. The same thing happened with pumpkin carving. At that time of year I have sports and homework and a lot of other important things to do. It's not that I'm too old, or too uncaring, but I have to do things that didn't take up my time when I was younger.

Every activity and tradition that I've loved to participate in in the past, now has changed. I loved decorating, carving pumpkins and going to carnivals. I still love those things! But as I've gotten older my schedule hasn't allowed me to do all of the things that I did, like saying, "Boo! I scared you!"